

Dennis the Menace



The Family Council

Editor's note: The Family Council consists of a judge, a psychiatrist, three clergymen, three editors and a women's editor. Each article is a summary of a family disagreement presented to the Council. The Council deals with problems, major and minor, encountered by guidance counselors and social workers. Edited by Mrs. Alma Denny. (Copyright by General Features Corp.)

Hal W. - I have no feeling for my wife and I've met someone I love.

Angela W. - I hold a deep feeling for him and he can try to love me.

Hal W. - My wife had 15 years in which to arouse my feeling for her. Now it's too late. I've met a woman I love deeply. Whether Angie agrees to a divorce or not, there can be no turning back for us now.

Suddenly she's trying to become a loving wife. She's even willing to stay with me despite the fact that she knows my heart belongs to another. Where was she for 15 years? Not once did she really warm up to me. She always made me feel like a heel and a brute.

Why did I keep trying so long? Because we have three children, two boys and a girl. The younger son is very close to me, tells me his problems and cries for me at night. I love the kids but I'd rather not stay in the home. I'm eager for Angie to admit the marriage is dead and stop trying to revive it.

Angela W. - I'm 32 and Hal and I have three wonderful children, aged 9 to 14. While we were never what you'd call the perfect couple, we got along quietly without many spats. Imagine my horror, then, when Hal informed me he'd found a new love and wanted to leave me for good. All through the years he'd spoken with contempt of people who split up and raise their children in broken homes. And now he wants to do that very thing. Worse, his lady friend is a divorcee with a child, too.

I'm terribly crushed by this. His talk of having no feeling towards me, of my being cold is ridiculous. When we were first married he told me he was the luckiest man on earth to have me. Later, he cooled a bit when I had a few blowups with his mother and sisters. But he can't put all the blame on me now. He's just looking for excuses.

The Council: In one sense a divorce is like a suicide. It's a killing which may well

be prevented. This time it's a marriage that's being ended deliberately, instead of a life. But psychologists have found that most suicides throw out feelers, give hints about their intentions in the unconscious hope that someone, anyone, will stop them. Similarly, parties to a dying marriage often pray (despite external protest) that a wise rescuer (relative, friend, counselor, clergyman or lawyer) will succeed in talking them out of their drastic solution.

Perhaps some blunt talk in our limited space will start a flow of second thoughts in Hal's mind and the flipping of new leaves in Angie's record-book.

First of all, Hal, why throw away 15 years of "getting-to-know-you"? No matter how greatly the divorcee appeals to you, you must start from scratch all over again learning her likes, dislikes, habits and crochets. Life's too short to start and restart that sort of intertwining with more than one mate, unless said mate is devastatingly impossible.

Secondly, is Angie really so impossible? We doubt it in view of the lovely children you admit she's given you, and in view of her present condonation, contriteness and desire to start anew. Our earnest advice is that you stop short in your present tracks and work with a marriage counselor - first, to understand what went wrong with you two; second, to look coldly and squarely at your new so-called "love" attack; third, to guide you through the first stages of Part Two of your marriage - the part where you both stick meticulously to your original vows to fill each other's needs and establish a firm home for your children.

The only reason cited by Hal is his loss of "feeling." But feelings wax and wane, and marriage was invented to hold people together through both phases.

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Pilot's Remains Found in Wreck

Brightwood, Ore. - (UPI) - The remains of an Army Air Corps pilot have been found in the wreckage of a P-38 fighter plane hidden in the depths of the Mt. Hood National Forest for two decades.

Two Army demolition experts made the discovery after reaching the wrecked plane, found last week by a U. S. Forest Service employee, Ivan Erickson. Old Army records at Ft. Lewis, Wash., and the Presidio of San Francisco, Calif., are being examined in hopes of finding the name of the dead pilot and the mission of his ill-fated flight.

Old newspaper files indicate an unidentified flier was lost March 25, 1943, from a formation about 100 miles north of Portland.

Lt. Peter Davis, commanding officer of the 53rd Explosive Ordnance Disposal Unit, Vancouver Barracks, Wash., and 1st Sgt. Mark Ashe identified the plane as a P-38. The wreckage, covered an area of about 450 feet by 200 feet, some 4 1/2 miles from Brightwood.

The Army is scheduled to go into the area again next week to remove live ammunition from three 50-caliber machine guns and the plane's 20 mm cannon.

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